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ENDING YOUR DIGITAL HUMANITIES PROJECT FROM THE START

What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.

— T.S. Eliot, “Little Gidding,” *Four Quartets*

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Comprised of four core projects:

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- The Robert Graves Diary project (<http://graves.uvic.ca>)
- Le Mariage Sous L'Ancien Régime (<http://mariage.uvic.ca>)
- *The Nxaʔamxcín Dictionary Project*

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<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/endingsproject/>

<https://github.com/projectEndings/>

NOT ABOUT HOW TO “END” A PROJECT

... but rather how to start at an end

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Our definition of “done” is not about content per se

It's about:

- Archivability
- Coherence
- Correctness

“WHAT WE CALL THE BEGINNING IS OFTEN THE END”:

“Granting agencies reward innovation and originality, not steady, measured progress. No one writes a grant application to say, ‘With just two more years of funding we can finish the good work we’ve started. No, we’re not going to be doing anything new. We just want finally to put this thing to bed.’” (Kirschenbaum, [p.3](#))

“WHAT WE CALL THE BEGINNING IS OFTEN THE END”:

Couldn't we call Wikipedia an "unfinished work"? - [Ta bu shi da yu](#) 22:18, 6 August 2006 (UTC)

Technically yes, but can something be classed as "unfinished" if there is no possible completion? [violet/riga \(t\)](#) 22:45, 6 August 2006 (UTC)

Good point. - [Ta bu shi da yu](#) 14:45, 7 August 2006 (UTC)

THE ENDINGS PLAN (OR ENDINGS COMPLIANCE)

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- Easily-archivable formats
- File formats with *massive* buy-in/investment
- Functionality that gracefully degrades



TECHNOLOGIES

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- TEI-XML

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And only the first two are essential.



TEI

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- Text Encoding Initiative

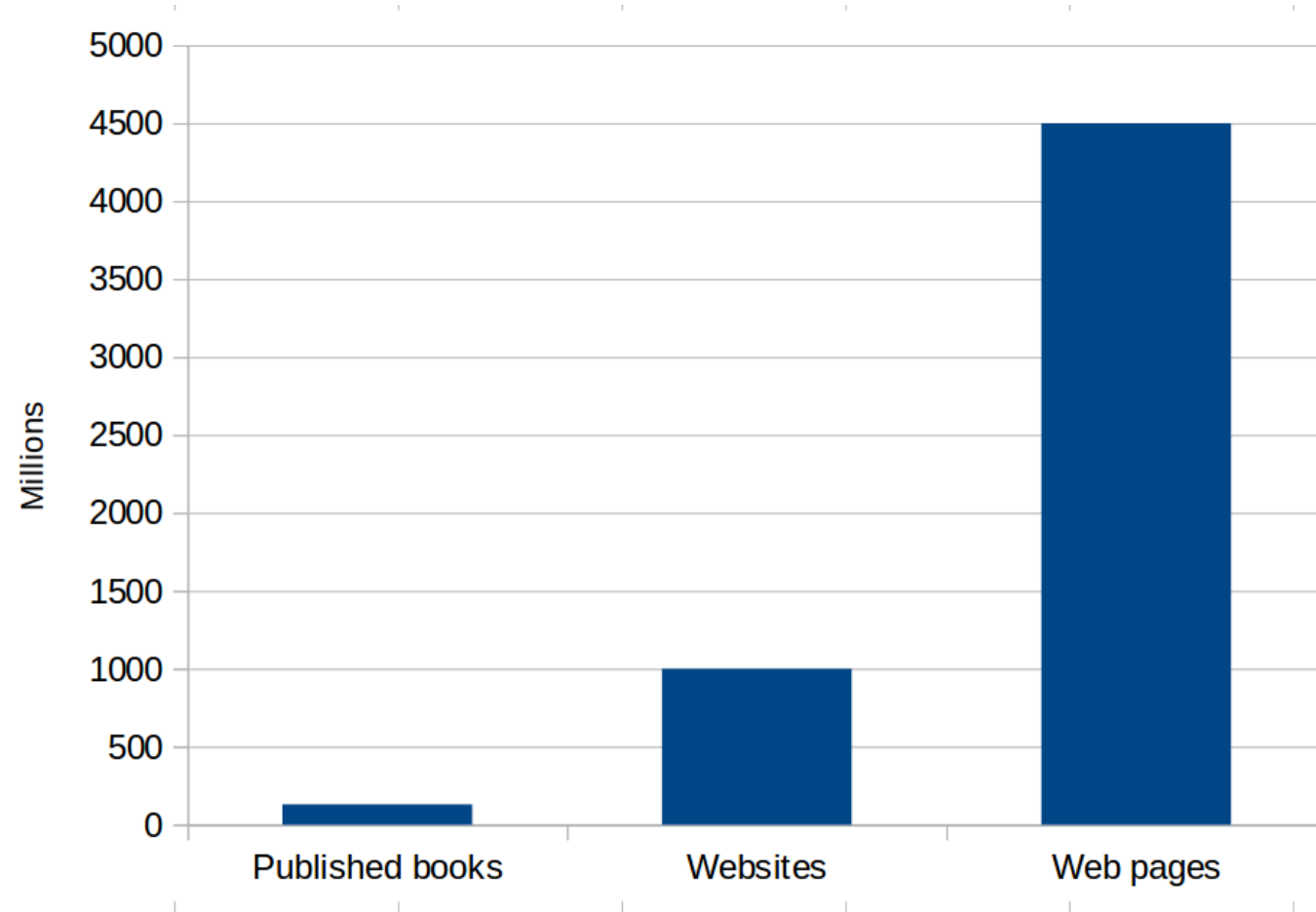
TEI

- Text Encoding Initiative
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TEI

- Text Encoding Initiative
- Large community with open standards
- Many, many users who create stylesheets to transform TEI back and forth between formats

(X)HTML



<http://www.worldwidewebsize.com/>

(X)HTML

- The world's first website still works:

<http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html>

(X)HTML

World Wide Web

The WorldWideWeb (W3) is a wide-area [hypermedia](#) information retrieval initiative aiming to give universal access to a large universe of documents.

Everything there is online about W3 is linked directly or indirectly to this document, including an [executive summary](#) of the project, [Mailing lists](#) , [Policy](#) , November's [W3 news](#) , [Frequently Asked Questions](#) .

[What's out there?](#)

Pointers to the world's online information, [subjects](#) , [W3 servers](#), etc.

[Help](#)

on the browser you are using

[Software Products](#)

A list of W3 project components and their current state. (e.g. [Line Mode](#) ,X11 [Viola](#) , [NeXTStep](#) , [Servers](#) , [Tools](#) , [Mail robot](#) , [Library](#))

[Technical](#)

Details of protocols, formats, program internals etc

[Bibliography](#)

Paper documentation on W3 and references.

[People](#)

A list of some people involved in the project.

[History](#)

A summary of the history of the project.

[How can I help ?](#)

If you would like to support the web..

[Getting code](#)

Getting the code by [anonymous FTP](#) , etc.

(X)HTML

Why not...

(X)HTML

Why not...

- Python
- PHP
- Rails
- MySQL
- Tomcat
- Node
- Perl
- ASP
- Cocoon
- +++++

(X)HTML

What are they mainly for?

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Producing HTML

(X)HTML5

We use XHTML5

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We use XHTML5

XML and thus easily processed

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Most likely there will be a conversion

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- 20 years old

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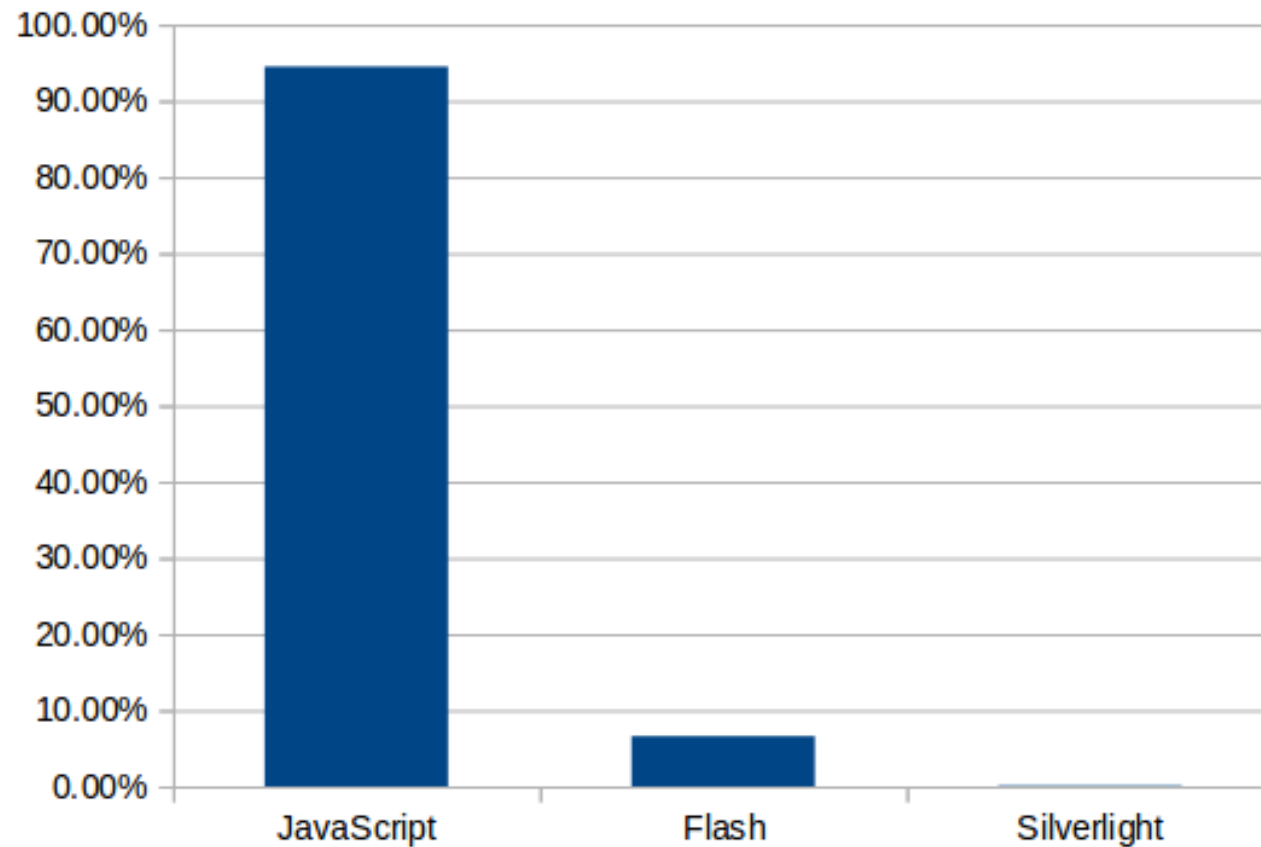
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- *And if no CSS, the site still works*

JAVASCRIPT



<https://w3techs.com/>



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- Committed to backwards compatibility
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- *If no JavaScript, the site still works*

STATIC BUILD

STATIC BUILD.... MEET MR. JENKINS

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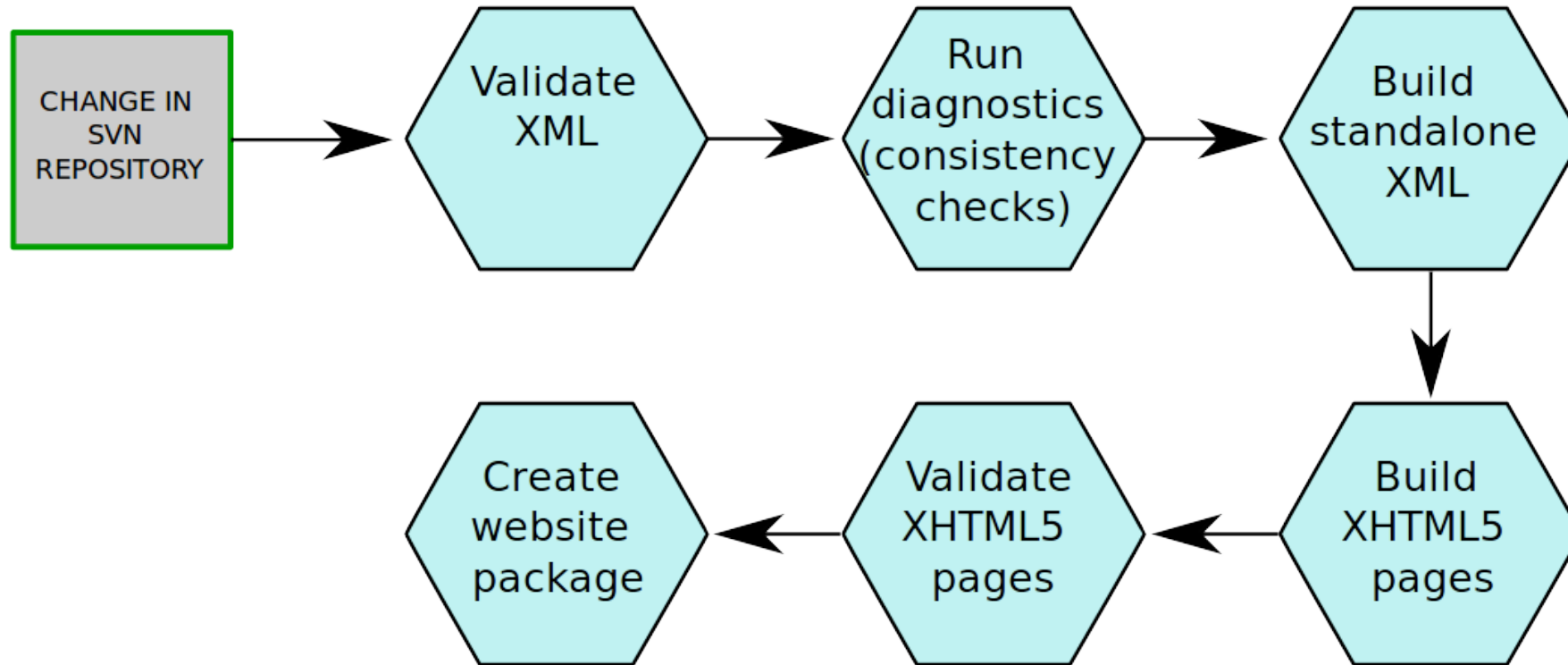


Jenkins



BUILD PROCESS

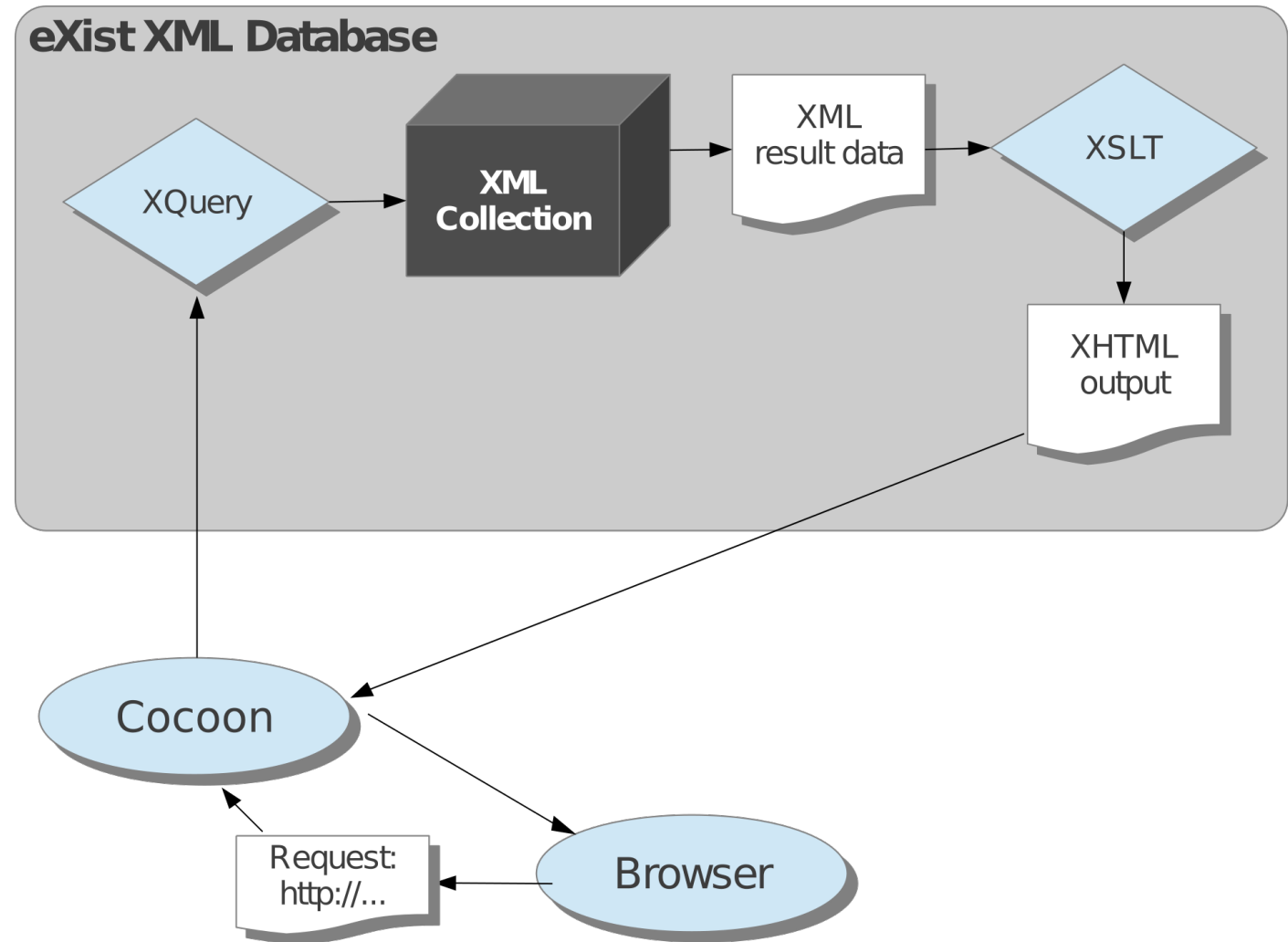
BUILD PROCESS



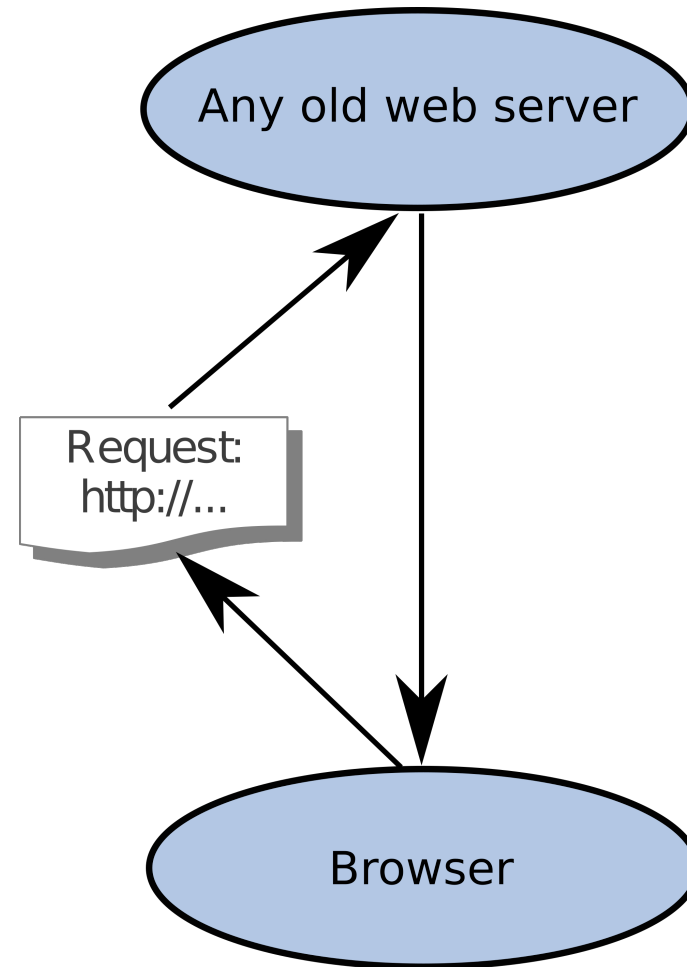
ADVANTAGES

- Fast and simple execution on the server

OLD MODEL



NEW MODEL



ADVANTAGES

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- Site works on any server

ADVANTAGES

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- Site works locally off of your hard drive

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ADVANTAGES

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- Site works locally off of your hard drive
- Site can be taken from anywhere to anywhere
- Site can be run off of a USB drive...



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- You have to build everything you want every time (lots and lots and lots of pages)
- Redundancy (but maybe that's also an advantage)

THANKS!

- You, for attending!
- Allan Cho for the invitation
- UBC Libraries
- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- The Endings Project / UVic Libraries
- Martin Holmes and Stewart Arniel (materials)

WORKS CITED

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